NEW YORK, SUNDAY, MAY 2, 1897.-COPYRIGHT, 1897, BY THE SUN PRINTING AND PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION.

IN THE CAMP OF THE TURK. IMPRESSIONS OF CORRESPONDENTS

The Turkish Troops Chiefly Middle-Aged, Sober, but Earnest and Warlike Men-The Greeks Outgeneralled at the Start-Edhem the Man of the Hour-His Looks and Ways.

AT THE SCENE OF WAR.

LONDON, April 23.-The telegraph brings from day to day little more than a fragmentary military history of the war which has been waged for a week now on the frontier of Thessaly. So it will be as long as the struggle goes on. The real story of the fighting, the human features of the campaign which the world of spectators craves most of all, must come by the slower channels of messenger and Post Office. The reason for this is almost obvious. A small army of war correspondents, representing the press of the whole world, is seeking, and seeking in vain, to send over two or three slender telegraph wires a mass of words each day such as all the telegraph operators in Turkey and Greece combined could not transmit in a month. It is only by courtesy and during a small portion of each twenty-four hours that these wires are available for the transmission of public intelligence. Much of the time they are monopolized for military purposes, for which, of course, they were primarily intended. The most that can be expected, therefore, in the way of telegraphic information from the front is a brief almost unadorned record of each day's events. The more vivid and symmetrical pictures will come later. and, judging by what is already arriving, there will be no lack of competent historians of what promises to be one of the most picturesque struggles of the century.

The letters received in London this week bring the story on both the Greek and the Turkish side down to the very edge of war. The descriptions make plain the reasons for much that has been inexplicable in the despatches since the Turks forced the Milouna Pass. I cannot do better than to quote freely from some of the most interesting letters already at hand. First in this category are the contributions of G. W. Steevens to the Daily Mail. Readers of THE Sun will remember Mr. Steevens as the writer of remarkably clever series of articles about the United States and especially the Presidential campaign last autumn. Mr. Steevens has been with Edhem Pasha's army since the early part of the month, and his accounts of Turkish camp life and of the preliminary work of the campaign are the last that have been printed. This is his account of his arrival and reception at

"In any other friendly country a three-days' anshaved, two-days' unclothed, twelve-hours' unwashed, sweat-and-dust-caked special correspondent would have sought out the military secretary, and asked when the Commander-in-Chief would allow him to pay his respects. But as this was only backword, happy-go-lucky, generous, gentlemanly Turkey. I rode straight up to the headquarters gate, stumbled across the walled court yard, over the mountainous cobbles which are the staple pavement of Turkey, and asked where was his Excellency. Edhem Pasha, Commander-in-Chief of a hundredthousand-odd soldlers, sat on the druggeted cushions of a little divan which ran along one side of a little room, sparsely furnished with a chair or two, a couple of smaller divans, a table, and a map. From his broad forehead, his sharp, fine-cut nose, his lively, watchful gray eyes, his bushy, grizzling beard, you might guess him English, French, German, Russian, Turk, or what you will. But you could never guess him other than a man of quick intelligence and a

gentleman.
"They brought cigarettes and they brought coffee. They always do. You can hardly spend half a crown in a shop-much less pay a callwithout them. Edhem Pasha read my introduction, and called for his aide-de-camp. A heavy man came in, fair and ruddy from the sun—an open-faced, boyish Albanian of 40. To him the Pasha confided me. He was to show me the army, and I was to show him the telegrams I wrote about it. We have done both to our mutual satisfaction. He talks French as they talk it on the boulevards; he laughs with a jolly explosion, like a child at a pantomime; he despises the Greeks; he is never tired of talking of Albanians; he has been wounded by Servians, Mon tenegrins, and Russians, though he says he sever distinguished himself in battle, and he shouts 'A la bonne heure' at every mention of

"Kennan Bey took me round to present me to the authorities, and he presented me to the tworoomed house I am to share with Reuter's Special Service and the Daily Telegraph. In the afternoon he appeared at the door with horses and suggested a ride. So I climbed up into one of the Sultan's saddles, with balloon-like holsters fencing me in front and a mountainous cantle fencing me behind, and off we scrambled and clattered through the rugged streets of Elas-

"We rode first to the camp of the Second Brigade of the second division, under the command of Memdhuk Pasha, which was camped on a hill, anticipating supper. All the men here are under canvas, and nearly all on high ground, for Elassona lies in a hole among hills, and when troops mobilized here in 1886 25 per cent. of them went down with fever. As we rode up the hill I saw white caps and dark uniforms swarming out of the tents; by the time we got to the top the brigade was under arms and ir line. Perhaps they did not form up quite so accurately as the Guards outside Wellington barracks; perhaps they did not present arms with the same simultaneous click; perhaps they were a little out at elbow and knee. But they were hard, wiry men all. With a dash of black, rather than brown, tinging their yellow-leather faces, with brows bold put puckered, and eyes fearless but wide open, they stared at the mysterious white face under a fez with something like the puzzled inquisitiveness of a spirited horse. But there was no suspicion. I was with an Albanian like themselves, a man they knew and trusted. So they studied me carefully and strangely as they fell out, and two dusky-faced orderlies brought me their supper to taste. It was brown bread with a mess of lentils and haricot beans, rice cooked as they only can cook It in the East, and baked lamb. I could have eaten okes of it, and an oke is two pounds and three-quarters.

"The next day we rode out to the frontier. Over a causeway of loose, tumbling stones, which ran up a bare-sided ravine, the native ponies picked their way without a stumble till we came out on a smooth space of lawn at the ton. The hills still rose bleak and barren on either side, but in front lay the green plains of Thessaly. Two rough-stoned, red-tiled guardhouses faced each other not a hundred yards spart; between them was a yet rougher building, half but, half cairn, which marked the fronr itself. With the Turkish Lieutenant in command we walked forward to meet the Greek Lieutenant from the other side. The contrast was a strange one. There was cop, waxed mustache, trim dark blue tunic, skythe trousers, boots to the knee, and the strut of unificental officer. And there was the ork-old, lean, long-armed and long-legged. arml and hollow-eyed, with a week's beard whis face, with fez and shabby dark blue uniform turn at the knees, with sandals, and dirty doth gaiters wound round his legs. But the strode over the rocks like a he post, and in and this country I shall put my

honey on the Turk. home in single file and in dead tilence. Albanian pickets do not hesitate to shoot if they hear a strange tongue, and a chance hat just now might mean the lives of a million of men. On our side, at least, they are doing The stillness and the watching stars, the sleeping western mountains with the last pale strenk of day staking behind

them-they seemed to give the lie to the guns and the forts and the long lines of wild-oyed riflemen. And then the hoarse challenge of the sentinels at the approaches to the village brought eack the ominous truth again."

Mr. Steevens is openly an admirer of the Turkish army and of the Turks themselves. He does not attempt to conceal the fact that he de-spises the Greeks, his impressions of them being gained apparently from a single visit to a village on the Greek side of the frontier. This is what he writes after spending several days with the Turke: "The first impression of the Turkish army on

an ignorant mind is one of melancholy. The men are so old. The Boers at Krügersdorp said it went against the grain to have to shoot young men. But surely the spectacle of these middleaged privates is far more pathetic. As you ride down the long, dark-coated, dusty-gaitered, loose-sandalled lines, nearly every man must be the father of a family. Brown-bearded, solidly set, almost stiffening into elderliness, steady eyed, but sober eyed, and grave, with faces speaking of the toils and dim perplexities of half a lifetime-who are these to be called away from their sheep pens and their opium gardens to meet bullets and shell? I know nothing of war, but to me it seems natural that war should be for the young. In our own army it is different. A man chooses to be a soldier; it is his trade and he must live by it; if he ties himself up with wife and children he does t at his own risk and at theirs. But these men have come from the hills of Macedonia, from the Marmora, from distant Angora and Trebizond, because they must. It is not their chosen life, yet they have no other. From twenty to thirty. our-in war-time even until forty-one month. two months, six months, eight months almost every year they must turn out on to bleak mountains to defend their race and their faith against disaffection at home and menace abroad. What life is this t. The rim of the hills round Elassona holds just now perhaps the greatest tragedy in the world.
"Greek against Turk is no business of mine,

out when I see these patient, weary, steadfast soldiers standing to their arms in sheets of rain. patrolling mountain tops in stabbing winds, humped on pack saddles, or marching by cartridge boxes twelve hours a day-why, then I, too, become a Turk, soaked to the marrow with Turkish bitterness against the Greek. The quarrel is none of these men's seeking, and though they are ready and anxious to fight, they have none of the exultation that effer-vesces out of mastik and Panhellenism. They were called here by the menace of Greece; they stay here to await attack, to do their duty, and say nothing. The attack does not come, and their mucky little homes are going to rack and ruin the while. When I think of this I am as eager as the eagerest Albanian to go down into to green plain, with Larissa a dim blotch at its far end, to crumple up the Greeks and crush them under foot. Down at Larissa there must be hay for horses, fresh beef and fresh vegetables for men. In God's name, let us put an end to this weariness of waiting and go

down to Larissa. "There is not a doubt in anybody's mind that we can walk into Larissa whenever we please There are those who expect to be viewing the Acropolis within forty-eight hours of the declara-tion of war; for though the Turkish War Office maps of this country are the best extant, the Turkish officer is occasionally hazy in his geography. Better informed, or more cautious spirits do not expect being further than Larisse at the end of the time quoted—allowing time for a decisive action and a circuitous march, crossing the Xerias and Salamvria, so as to take Larissa on its unfortified southern side.

"Smart, it must be owned, the Turkish army is not. I saw a battery starting for the frontier the other day; the gun carriages and the horses were piled up with ragged bundles, beside which bank holiday excursionist's baggage is a model of trimness. When a battalion lines up on parade you will see one man in a blue-face uniform and another in a green. Their sandals look like old list slippers, their gaiters like badly wound hospital bandages; they are tied up with loose ends of string. In the marching regiments, and especially those of the reserve, the officers are sometimes out at elbow and at knee. The men move a little heavily at their drill, and their double gives an impression of rheumatism; what wonder in a peasant of five-and-thirty ! But all these are small matters. The uniforms may be curious, but they are warm: the men want no better pro tection. The sandals and gaiters may not fit like ammunition boots and putties, but neither do they gall the foot and cause men to fall out on the march. The officers may be a little dishev clied, but every one is dead keen and utterly a stranger to fear; they know their men, and their men trust them. The elder are tried in war. The younger are well trained in the military college at Constantinople: most of these speak French fluently, though they were never nearer Paris than the Bulgarian frontier. As for stiffness at the double, a man has a right to be a little stiff when he can march twelve hours a day, knap sack on back, as many days as his officers like to keep him at it. Smart this army assuredly is not; useful, workmanlike, untiring, fearless, it

Lastly, transport. Edhem Pasha tells you the truth first, and asks you not to publish it afterward, if he deems publication inopportune He told me without reserve that there are only rovisions here for fifteen days, and he spoke of it as a defect to be remedied immediately. By to-day it has been considerably remedied. Depots are being rapidly established at Serfidje, day's journey in our rear, and at Elassona. Roughly, there may now be enough provisions stored to last the whole army three weeks Transport is difficult, and always must be till wagon roads or railways replace the present tracks. But the sinews of ponics and men will overcome any difficulty, if there are enough o them and they are tightly enough stretched. There are enough, and they do dot spare themselves. The Turkish army will manage to keep itself alive till it enters Larissa. But how long.

One of the Times's correspondents, writing from the Milouna Pass just before the outbreak of war, mentions these interesting features of the situation:

The men live very much the life of other soldiers in other camps, and for the nonce the Turk seems to have roused himself from the lethargic or meditative condition he usually affects in the fields and villages of Anatolia. I was agreeably surprised up at the Milouna blockhouse the other day to find the Albanian picket dancing a queer sort of circle dance, hand in hand, while one of their number played on a reed pipe. With the exception of the uniform it was idyllic.

"The scenery is, of course, gorgeous, the pop ulation picturesque, and the weather delightful, and one easily forgets the minor discomforts ever consequent on a stay in a provincial Turkish town. It is, however, a matter of great regret that the type here is so mixed that the Macedonian of Alexander's day is as hard to find as the Roman is in Rome. Succeeding waves of Slavs. Turks, and Vlaks have obliter ated from one of the most classical regions in the world all memory of its past; and the dwellers in the green valleys of the Haliacmon gaze on the snows of Mount Olympus as | gnorant of the history of the country they inhabit as they are

"With an admirable intuition and comprehension of his chief's ideas, Riza Pasha, a young General, who has studied and served in the German army, has made hir 'actical dispositions in such a way that, while raking the whole breadth of the flat plain of Larissa, his guns are able to earch out with a grazing fire the more gentle dopes leading down to the Greek encampments. In the folds of the hills behind lie the Turkish battalions, closing effectually the heads of the

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bove them, while themselves screened from view and out of fire. Actually within the dip there are 50,000 men, and around it nearly 180 field pieces, so that, whether a blow should be struck from Larissa or Trikkala, the Greeks would at once find themselves engaged on either flank, a situation that, when the attacking force is the weaker, bids fair to end in its envelopment or rolling up.

"The strategy of the Marshal's plan is equally evident. Protecting his advanced base at Serfidje and Veria, he keeps open his provision routes and at the same time selects for the imnediate theatre of operations a tract of country where his preponderance of artillery will stand him in greatest stead while he compels the enemy in any advance to traverse an exposed and unprotected plain. There is no doubt that the Turkish frontier and the Turkish army ar the stronger, but it is equally certain that the best use has been made of both."

A correspondent who analyzes the military situation and the tactical lessons which the war experts of Europe may learn from the pending

conflict comes to this conclusion: "It must not be thought that any great levsons of war will be learned either by sea or land from the present conflict. The Greek army can hardly number a soldier or an officer who has seen any serious warfare, and there has been an air throughout of guerrilla-work about the Athe-nian plan of campaign. The Turks, on the other hand, are all born soldiers. They came into Europe with tents and cimetars, and they are always at home and happy under a soldier's canvas shelter or upon his bed of mother earth. Nor these contending forces show us the latest do these contending forces show us the latest and finest implements of belligerency. We hear nothing of Maxim guns or of war balloons, or of many another modern contrivance for the divorcement of souls and bodies, so carnestly studied and so eagerly employed by Christendom. 'Hammer and tongs' may best describe the general system by which the Ottoman Turk has thus far so largely redeemed his character and that of his master, and made the world respect men who can die like brave old Hafis Pasha."

spect men who can die like brave old Hafis Pasha."

Everything which the large corps of correspondents at Edhem Pasha's headquarters have written has led Europe to regard this man as a great commander, with a brilliant future before him. He is certainly the man of the hour in English estimation, and everything that is written about him is read with avidity. The Daily Telegraph correspondent in a brief personal sketch says:

"It may be interesting to mention that Edhem Pasha, the central figure in this little world, is about 45 years of age, though he looks older. He is rather above middle height, and wears a short, thick, black beard, already fiecked with gray. His nose is straight and rather long, but his most interesting feature is his gray eyes, which are large and intelligent. His manner is very attractive—a mixture of that courtesy and dignity which are not uncommon among Turkish officers. He does not strike one as a strong man physically, though I am told he is a hard worker, and does not spare himself. His manner of talking is as a rule quiet, and marked by much refinement and gravity; but it grows assimated when a subject kindles his interest, and his eyes glow with enthusiasm. It is difficult to judge of a man's sense of humor through the barriers of a strange language. His style of life is simple, and he has none of the Oriental love of display. In character he seems to be straightforward and sincere, frank and truth-loving. Trickery and intrigue, diplomacy and politics he alike detests. His subordinates and those who see him more intimately are very fond of him.

"He treats us, one of the aides-de-camp said to me, not as a superior, but as a father." Edhem Pasha is very proud of his army.

"The Greeks report,' he said, 'that we have no cavalry. They should see our Circasslan horsemen.

"A band of Greek irregulars had crossed the frontier, and fired on the Turkish troops. I

"A band of Greek irregulars had crossed the frontier, and fired on the Turkish troops. I asked him whether there was any chance of refrontier, and fired on the Turkish troops. It asked him whether there was any chance of reprisals.

"No,' he answered, proudly, 'we do not make war in that dirty fashion.

"Ethem Pasha understands war thoroughly, but it took him a little time to appreciate the functions of a war correspondent. He seemed to think that the latter should be hedged about by many restrictions, tenderly fostered, and safely deposited during a battle among the baggage animals and knights of the hospital. It was some time before he realized that the expectation of witnessing and describing a battle was the one thing which procured him the honor of these gentlemen's company in his camp. One anxious moruing, at a time when war was thought to be imminent, on sending round to headquarters it appeared that the General and all his staff had filted during the night, and had gone no man would say whither. No orders had been left, and the guards would allow no one to pass. Here was a case of dire disappointment, but no man may run the guantlet of an Albanian guard with impusity. When the General returned a joint representation was made, and he was entreated not to allow this kind of thing to occur again. He expressed his penitence and promised a timely warning of any unexpected move."

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SIIKS-THIS WEEK

Genuine Japan Silks-Navy and 24-inch Fancy Indias—uncommon styles..... Black Figured Indias-next designs..... Extra Black Brocade Indias-24 inch...... White Washable Habutai Silks—27 inch..... 24-inch White Brocade Indias.....

Changeable Brocade Taffetas—new Green. Violet, Blue and Red combinations.... Pongees in fancy shades for lining thin dresses 24-inch Japanese Silks for Tea Gowns in all the latest fancy and evening shades Extra quality Black Satin Duchesse

Wash Dress Fabrics.

Lustrous Black Silk Taffetas-fine weave.....

If you doubt accuracy of first row of figures ompare qualities and prices we quote and those elsewhere asked -- comparison is the test.

French Pineapple Organdies .29 .17 .17 .15 French Organdies—wild flower designs .29
French Organdies—plain shades .37 Emb'd Spot Organdies—col'd dots Etamine Imprime—finest French .14 Lace Stripe Lappet Cloth Gauze Broderie—fast Black Satin Stripe Etamines—Blk and col'd Satin Stripe Organdies Bourette Stripe Linen Color Novelty .19
French Batistes—beautiful styles .19 French Dimities—finest quality Batiste Brilliantine—new styles 10 9%
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118% 4 New Lace Organdies-best styles french Ratistes-allk finish Extra fine Organdles—neat designs Lace Stripe Novelties Fancy Linen Color Batistes Hair line stripe Linens Dimities and Lawns—best styles Fancy Shades for lining Organdies .12 .39 .29 .19 .15 .94 .54 .54 lest Moire Antique for Skirts Best French Glace Sateens French Sateens—silk lustre Fancy French Sateons French Printed Sateens French Brocade Sateens Fast Black Sateens— Fancy Foulard Suitings— Plain Navy Twill Sateens Silk Warp Linens with Satin Striped Silk Ginghams Linen, Lace, and Corded Novelties Lace Stripe Linens Fine French Ginghams Finest Scotch Ginghams

Linen Crach with emb'd dots Skirting crash—extra quality
Washable Covert Cloth—beet make Galatea Cloth-best quality 7% 7% 5% 5% 3% Extra fine Zephyr Ginghams .194 Bummer Flannels—best styles Best American Novelty Ginghams Check Apron Ginghams Best French Percales-yard wide .124 Fancy Percales-yard wide .124

White Goods-THIS WEEK Heavy White Piques-30 inch-were .25.. .125 Fancy Ducks —28 fuch —were .123 Dotted Swisses-Pink, Blue, Lilac, Nile and Cream-make exquisite summer dresses 40-inch Apron Lawns-lace and satin borders Satin Plaid Nainsooks—8 designs—worth .10... Pine White Stripe Dimities—S-cent quality...

Table Covers Chentile-yard square-fringed Chentlle-1 1 yards fringed Venetian Tapestry-dble knot fring -- 2 vda

> We have about a hundred Best Japanese Rugs

of odd dimensions-sizes that when particularly real value \$5.50 real value 9.50

the following special prices: SET's feet 9x18 feet 19x19 feet real value 16.00 All the above are best grade-real Oriental

Notions-THIS WEEK Double Bone Casing ____pc-- 7 cts-doz. Stik Stripe Casing— Taffeta Binding— -pc - 7 cts -loz. All Silk Taffeta-Fancy Stripe Belting --- pc-18 cts-tor Silk Stripe Belting yd 6 cts -- Black and Col'd Velveteen 5 yds... Extra quality Velveteen -- 3 yds. Skirt Braid — 5 yds..... Grain Whalebone — strip-10 cts-doz. Real Shell Whalebone strip-12 cts-doz.. Horn Bone-7 and 8 inch doz - 3 cts-gross Dress Steels-pink'd edge-doz- 3 cts-gross Triumph and Imperial—doz — G cts—gross . Sewing Silks—Black & col'd — B cts—doz . . . Buttonhole Twist-box of 25 spools... 100-yard spool Linen Thread - 2 cts doz. Feather stitched Trimming Braids — pc . Hose Supporters—Satin Bell . Kid Hair Curlers-large size -English Pins----pkge-5 cts-3 pkgs....12% Hair Pins ----pkge-1 ct -dozen Hooks and Eyes-gr 4 Gem Pins-3 phgs Federhaken Do-gr 8 Clinton Safety-page Federhaken Do-gr Stockinet Dress Shields-No 1 to 4 3 '9. . 5 7 '2 to 10

Stamped Linens-THIS WEEK

Rubber Dress Shields-No 1 to 5 5 .. 6 1 7 1 to 12 1

About Ten per cent, less by dozen !

Duck Scarfs-2 yards long Tray Covers-openwork and hemstitched Denim Table Squares—36 inch Tray Covers—hem-titch and drawnwork